

Offering Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome screening when there is a failing twin pregnancy at the early pregnancy dating scan

Where the early pregnancy dating scan shows that there is an empty second pregnancy sac, Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome screening **can** be offered. The Combined screening test can be offered between 11 weeks and 2 days and 14 weeks and 1 day of pregnancy and the quadruple test between 15 weeks and 0 days and 18 weeks and 0 days of pregnancy.¹

Non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT) cannot be offered in this instance for higher chance results and the woman can only be offered an invasive test.

Where the early pregnancy dating scan shows that there is a second pregnancy sac containing a non-viable fetus or a fetal pole, Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome screening should **not** be offered. Women should **not** be offered a further scan for the purposes of Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome screening, this is because there could be a contribution to the maternal biochemical markers for many weeks and therefore the screening result would not be accurate.²

¹ Public Health England 2019 *Fetal anomaly screening laboratory handbook: Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome* Accessed 27/08/2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fetal-anomaly-screening-laboratory-handbook-downs-edwards-and-pataus-syndromes/fetal-anomaly-screening-laboratory-handbook>

² Huang T, Boucher K, Aul R, Rashid S, Meschino WS. First and second trimester maternal serum markers in pregnancies with a vanishing twin. *Prenat Diagn.* 2015;35(1):90-96.
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